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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

**Washington, DC 20515**

**May 23, 2003**

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-218 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Obey  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Young and Ranking Member Obey:

As members of the California delegation, we are requesting your support for the nation's science portfolio. As you know, the federal government plays a key role in supporting basic scientific research and exploration. This assistance has enabled the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Department of Energy Office of Science (DOE), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to sponsor research which has led to the development of several break-through technologies. These new technologies are at the heart of our homeland defense and our economic future. As you deliberate the funding allocations for FY 2004, we hope that you will support allocations which will enable the appropriations subcommittees to provide substantial increases for NSF, NIH, DOE Office of Science, and NASA.

Congress recognized the importance of biomedical research by doubling the NIH budget over the past five years, bringing new opportunities into the research enterprise and enabling the nation to take advantage of the great scientific opportunities for fundamental discoveries. This investment also has enabled NIH to expand its efforts to take advantage of the emerging prospects for translating the findings of basic research into better ways to diagnose, treat and manage disease.

However, this much-needed funding targeted only part of the national research portfolio. In addition to the need for strong investment in the biomedical sciences, funding for the physical sciences (chemistry, mathematics, physics, astronomy, and space exploration) are as essential to the nation's technological needs. These sciences, funded primarily through NSF, NASA, and DOE, provide the backbone of U.S. technological innovation and lead to new understandings of the physical world, while at the same time training the next generation of scientists who are a key to U.S. economic, military, and cultural leadership.

Science research and development drives the innovation for major segments of the economy, especially in California. We cannot underestimate the importance of federal science funding to our current and future economic health. It is from this government investment that great inventions flow – inventions which have transformed the landscape of America, and will continue to do so.

Recently, Congress has signaled its growing support for increases in the physical sciences. Last year, the President signed into law a bill authorizing appropriations for NSF that would set it on a five-year doubling path. Similarly, the House has passed and the Senate is considering energy legislation that includes a near five year doubling plan for DOE's Office of Science. While we understand that you face significant challenges this budget year, we urge you to support federal science funding allocations in FY 2004 that will allow for significant budgetary increases for NSF, NASA, NIH, and DOE's Office of Science.

Sincerely,

David Wynn

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